

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph #0048 of the Applicants' specification as follows:

--FIG. 6 shows a schematic diagram of devices capable of encapsulated autonegotiation of an operational mode following negotiation of a data transmission mode in a DDI using link pulses according to an embodiment of the present invention as illustrated with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. Devices 352 are coupled by one or more data lanes (not shown) in a DDI 312. Each device 352 comprises a link pulse negotiation section 354, data transceiver 356 and encapsulated negotiation section 358. The link pulse negotiation section 354 of each device 352 may select a data transmission mode from among one or more common data transmission modes (i.e., data transmission modes common to the data transceivers 356) and configure the data transceivers 356 to communicate in a selected common data transmission mode as shown in FIG. 1. The selected data transmission mode may define an encapsulated negotiation process such as 1000BASE-X as provided in IEEE Std. 802.3-2000, clause 37. For example, during a negotiation period the link pulse negotiation sections 354 may enable PMA and PCS sections (not shown) in the data transceivers 356 to configure the data transceivers 356 to communicate in the selected data communication mode. Following the negotiation period, encapsulated negotiation sections ~~352-358~~ may identify additional capabilities (e.g., in a protocol layer defined above a PMA section) while communicating according to the selected data transmission mode. However, this is merely an example of how an encapsulated negotiation scheme may be executed following configuration of a data transceiver according to a selected data transmission mode and embodiments of the present invention are not limited in this respect.--